

Frederick Douglass was one of the foremost leaders of the abolitionist movement, which fought to end slavery within the United States. Douglass served as an adviser to President Abraham Lincoln during the Civil War and fought for the adoption of constitutional amendments that guaranteed voting rights and other civil liberties for blacks. As one of the country's greatest orators of all time Douglass provided a powerful voice for human rights during this period of American history and is still revered today for his contributions against racial injustice.

Harriet Tubman was heralded as the "Moses" of black people, leading approximately 300 slaves to freedom during 19 trips on the Underground Railroad. Her work became even more dangerous after the Fugitive Slave Law passed and awards were offered for her capture. Tubman became the most influential of the black "conductors." After the outbreak of the Civil War she served with distinction as a soldier, spy, and nurse. Tubman was a dedicated Republican activist and worked closely on reconstruction efforts with her good friend, Secretary of State William H. Seward.

Sojourner Truth was born into slavery and eventually became one of nation's leading orators for both abolition and women's suffrage. During the Civil War she spoke on the Union's behalf and helped enlist black troops for the cause. After the Civil War ended she continued working to help the newly freed slaves through the Freedman's Relief Association and then the Freedman's Hospital. In 1851 Truth attended the Ohio Women's Rights Convention in Akron, Ohio where she delivered her famous speech, *Ain't I a Woman?*

Booker T. Washington, a prominent businessman, educator, public speaker and author, was born a slave but went on to become one of the nation's leading voices for freedom, equality and self-reliance. Because of his achievements as an educator he was selected to establish a school for blacks in Alabama which later became Tuskegee University. Recognized as an orator and author of his best-selling *Up From Slavery*, he exerted great influence in the Republican Party. In 1901 Washington became the first African-American man formally invited to the White House as the guest of Republican President Theodore Roosevelt, who considered Washington a trusted adviser. Because of his contributions to the nation Washington received numerous honors after his death. On April 7, 1940, Washington became the first African-American to be depicted on a United States postage stamp. In 1942 the Liberty Ship Booker T. Washington was named in his honor, the first major oceangoing vessel to be named after an African-American. The first coin to feature an African-American was the Booker T. Washington Memorial Half Dollar that was minted by the United States from 1946 to 1951. Numerous high schools and middle schools across the United States have also been named after Booker T. Washington.

George Washington Carver was a great scientist, educator and humanitarian. In 1891 Carver was admitted to Iowa State University where he received his Bachelor of Science degree, becoming the first black to graduate from the college. After graduation Carver was appointed to the faculty as an assistant botanist. While teaching he received his master's degree. Carver was internationally recognized for his research in agricultural sciences and is credited with having revolutionized agriculture in the South. As a teacher and as the head of agricultural research at Tuskegee University Carver dedicated his career to finding uses for plant products and to teaching farmers the advantages of diversifying their crops.

Hiram Rhodes Revels of Mississippi was the first black United States Senator, serving from 1870-1871 as a Republican. Revels completed the unfinished term of Jefferson Davis, who was a Democrat and the former president of the Confederacy. In the Senate Revels supported civil rights for blacks. After completing his term in the United States Senate, Revels was named president of Alcorn University.

Blanche Bruce was a Republican United States Senator who served from March 4, 1875, to March 3, 1881. He was the first African-American to serve a full term in the United States Senate. He was born into slavery near Farmville, Virginia. At the beginning of the Civil War he taught school in Hannibal, Missouri and later attended Oberlin College in Ohio. After the Civil War he became a member of the Mississippi Levee Board, a sheriff and tax collector of Bolivar County. He was appointed register of the treasury by Republican President James Garfield in 1881 and reappointed to that position in 1897.

Ida B. Wells was a journalist, advocate for civil rights and an anti-lynching crusader. She reported in two black newspapers, the *New York Age* and the *Chicago Conservator*, about the violence and injustices being perpetrated against African-Americans. In honor of her legacy the U.S. Postal Service issued an Ida B. Wells stamp in 1990.

Mary Terrell was a writer and internationally known civil rights activist. She led important associations that worked for civil rights and suffrage. In 1884 she was one of the first African-American women to earn a college degree. She continued with "firsts" throughout her career, becoming the first black woman to serve on the District of Columbia Board of Education. She is credited with working with Republicans to end segregation in Washington, D.C.

George Washington Bush was one of the first American settlers and the first black settler in what would later become the state of Washington. In 1844 Bush and his family (along with five other families including his friend Michael Simmons) left Missouri, heading west on the Oregon Trail. Bush's navigation skills and knowledge of the Western region, gained during his years as a trapper, made him the indispensable guide of the party. The Bushes and the other five families established a settlement, named Bush Prairie, at the southernmost tip of Puget Sound in what is now Tumwater.

Oregon's Black American exclusion laws put the Bush family at risk of losing its property; however, when the Washington Territory was formed in 1853, one of the first actions of the Republicans in the Territorial Legislature was to ask Congress to give the Bushes unambiguous ownership of their land, which it did in 1855.

George Washington Bush lived the rest of his life in Washington. He died on April 5, 1863, and is the only veteran of the War of 1812 buried in Thurston County, Washington.

William Owen Bush, son of George Washington Bush – the first black settler in the Puget Sound, became one of Washington's most famous farmers. He was born in Missouri in 1832 and came west with his parents, who settled what is now Tumwater. Bush helped organize the Western Washington Industrial Association in 1872 to promote agricultural exhibitions. In 1889 Bush represented Thurston County as a Republican in the first state Legislature. While serving in the House of Representatives he helped write the first state laws including House Bill 90, which helped create what is now Washington State University.

When he died in Olympia on February 14, 1907, the local newspaper titled his obituary "Pioneer of Pioneers" and wrote "No other resident of the State or Territory throughout its history did more to advertise the state."

Horace Cayton, the son-in-law of U.S. Senator Hiram Rhodes Revels, was a journalist who worked for the *Seattle Populist*, the *Seattle Post-Intelligencer* and the *Seattle Standard* before founding the *Seattle Republican* in 1894. The Mississippi-born former slave came to Seattle in 1886. In 1913 Cayton became the founding vice president of the Seattle branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. Horace and his wife participated in many social and civic events.

William Thaddeus Coleman, Jr. was appointed to serve as the nation's fourth Secretary of Transportation by Republican President Gerald Ford. At the time he was only the second African-American to serve in the Cabinet and the first African-American to serve as a Supreme Court law clerk. Coleman was also a distinguished lawyer who was one of the lead strategists and co-author of the legal brief in *Brown v. Board of Education* (1954) in which the U.S. Supreme Court held racial segregation in public schools to be unconstitutional.

Carter G. Woodson was a historian whose lifetime goal was to educate the public about the contributions and history of blacks. Through the creation of an association dedicated to documenting black history and his publication of numerous historical works Woodson accomplished this goal and much more; he was instrumental in the success of Negro History Week, which eventually led to Black History Month. In 1926 Woodson promoted the second week of February as a celebration of "Negro History Week" to recognize Abraham Lincoln's birth-date on the 12th and Frederick Douglass' birth-date on the 14th.

Martin Luther King, Jr. was a dedicated advocate for civil rights and individual liberty. King traveled more than six million miles and spoke more than 2,500 times; he led the Montgomery Bus Boycott, which resulted in the end of segregation on public transportation, and a peaceful march on Washington, D.C., of 250,000 people to whom he delivered his "I Have a Dream" address. At the age of 35, King was the youngest man to receive the Nobel Peace Prize. He was assassinated on April 4, 1968, in Memphis, Tennessee, where he was to lead a protest march.

King was from a prominent Republican family in Atlanta, with a long history of public and religious service. In 1982, President Ronald Wilson Reagan honored King by signing into law a bill that established the third Monday of January each year as Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. It is one of only three United States federal holidays to commemorate an individual person.

Jack Roosevelt "Jackie" Robinson was born in Cairo, Georgia in 1919 to a family of sharecroppers. Robinson helped pioneer the integration of professional athletics in America by breaking the color barrier in Major League baseball. As a result of his great success on the field Robinson was inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame in 1962.

He also had success away from the baseball field. Robinson was the first African-American Major League Baseball analyst and the first black vice president of a major American corporation. In the 1960s he helped to establish the Freedom National Bank, an African-American owned and controlled institution based in Harlem, New York.

Clarence Thomas is one of the nation's leading conservative writers and an associate justice of the U.S. Supreme Court. After graduating from Holy Cross College and Yale Law School Thomas worked as assistant secretary of education (1981) and headed the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (1981–9). President George H.W. Bush appointed him to the federal court of appeals (1990–1) and then to the U.S. Supreme Court, where he became only the second African-American to sit on the nation's highest court.

J. C. Watts is a leading conservative commentator, businessman, Cable News Network political contributor, former Representative from Oklahoma in the U.S. Congress, and much celebrated quarterback for the University of Oklahoma from 1977 to 1981.

Watts won a seat on the Oklahoma Corporation Commission in November 1990, becoming the first African-American elected to statewide office in Oklahoma. In November 1994 he was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives, and by 1998 was chosen to be the chairman of the House Republican Conference, the fourth highest position of leadership in the House of Representatives. He is now the chairman of the J.C. Watts Companies, which works with clients on strategies for business development, communications and public affairs. J.C. Watts Companies is attempting to develop a television news channel that emphasizes news from an African-American perspective.

Dr. Condoleezza Rice was the 66th Secretary of State, making her the first black woman, second African-American, and the second woman to serve as Secretary of State. Prior to that Rice was President George W. Bush's National Security Advisor. She was the first woman to occupy that post. She was a professor of political science at Stanford University where she served as provost from 1993 to 1999. During the administration of George H.W. Bush, Rice served as the Soviet and East European Affairs Advisor during the dissolution of the Soviet Union and German reunification.

Rice is an accomplished pianist and has performed in public since she was a young girl. At the age of 15 she played Mozart with the Denver Symphony and to this day she plays regularly with a chamber music group in Washington, D.C. She does not play professionally but has performed at diplomatic events at embassies, including a performance for Queen Elizabeth II, and has performed in public with cellist Yo-Yo Ma.

Dr. Alveda C. King is the daughter of the late civil rights activist, Rev. A. D. King, and the niece of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. She is a former Republican member of the Georgia House of Representatives; a senior fellow at the Alexis de Tocqueville Institution, a conservative think-tank in Washington, D.C.; and the founder of King for America, Inc., which she founded "to assist people in enriching their lives spiritually, personally, mentally and economically."

Michael Steele is chairman of the Republican National Committee. He is the first African-American to hold this position. Steele was also the first African-American to serve in a statewide office in Maryland and the first Republican elected to the position of Lieutenant Governor of Maryland, a post he held from 2003 to 2007. Steele's most prominent efforts were reforming the state's Minority Business Enterprise program and serving as chairman of the Commission on Quality Education in Maryland.